IN THE CLAIMS:

1-21. (*Cancelled*)

22. (*Currently amended*) Subcutaneous implants having a limited initial release of the active principle and a subsequent linearly varying extended release, comprising:

- a core (i) comprising at least one active principle dispersed in a polymeric matrix essentially consisting of PLGA obtained by extrusion, wherein said active principle is at most 55% mass/mass of the total weight of the core,

- a coating (ii) in film form comprising as the main component PLGA, said PLGA having a molecular weight between 50,000 and 150,000 and a molar ratio of lactic acid to glycolic acid monomers between 50:50 and 95:5.

~~-said implants having an extended overall release of the active principle with a linear profile.~~

23. (*Previously presented*) Subcutaneous implant as claimed in claim 22, wherein the active principle contained in the core (i) is selected from the group consisting of a peptide, an active principle able to increase bone density selected from pharmaceutically acceptable bisphosphonic acids and their salts, vitamin D or analogues thereof and sex hormones, an analgesic-narcotic, a steroid hormone for hormonal treatments during menopause or for contraception.

24. (*Previously presented*) Subcutaneous implant as claimed in claim 23, wherein the core (i) contains a peptide the particles of said active principle present heterogeneous dimensions which vary from 1 micron to 63 microns.

25. (*Previously presented*) Subcutaneous implants as claimed in claim 22, wherein the PLGA used in the core (i) presents a molecular weight between 50,000 and 150,000 and a molar ratio of lactic acid to glycolic acid monomers between 50:50 and 95:5.

26. (*Previously presented*) Subcutaneous implants as claimed in claim 22, wherein the coating (ii) contains PLGA in amounts ranging from 75 to 99,999% and the

remaining to 100% consisting essentially of excipients and/or of the same active ingredient used in the core (i).

27. (*Cancelled*)

28. (*Previously presented*) The subcutaneous implants according to claim 26, wherein the coating (ii) consists of a mixture of 80% PLGA and the remaining to 100% of at least one hydrophilic excipient.

29. (*Previously presented*) The subcutaneous implants according to claim 28, wherein said hydrophilic excipient is selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl pyrrolidone, D-mannitol and mixtures thereof.

30. (*Withdrawn*) The subcutaneous implants according to claim 26, wherein the coating (ii) consists of a mixture of 75% PLGA and the remaining to 100% of the same active ingredient contained in the core (i).

31. (*Previously presented*) Subcutaneous implant as claimed in claim 22, wherein said coating in film form (ii) consists of PLGA with a molecular weight between 50,000 and 150,000 and a molar ratio of lactic acid to glycolic acid monomers between 50:50 and 95:5.

32. (*Previously presented*) Subcutaneous implant as claimed in claim 31, wherein said PLGA presents an average molecular weight between 100,000 and 150,000 and said molar ratio is between 50/50 and 75/25.

33. (*Previously presented*) Subcutaneous implant as claimed in claim 22, wherein the coating (ii) presents a thickness between 5 and 250 μm.

34. (*Previously presented*) Subcutaneous implant as claimed in claim 33, wherein said thickness is between 10 and 100 μm.

35. *(Withdrawn)* Process for preparing the subcutaneous implants as claimed in claim 22, comprising the following stages:

a) preparing the core (i) containing the active principle by extrusion;

b) passing the core (i) into a solution of PLGA in a suitable solvent selected from the group consisting of apolar and aprotic polar solvents such that said cores remain in contact with said solution for a period between 1 and 5 seconds; and

c) drying said cores originating from stage (b).

36. *(Withdrawn)* Process as claimed in claim 35, wherein the polar solvent is a chlorinated solvent.

37. *(Withdrawn)* Process as claimed in claim 36, wherein said solvent is methylene chloride.

38. *(Withdrawn)* Process as claimed in claim 35, wherein said aprotic polar solvent is selected from the group consisting of acetonitrile, ethyl acetate, and tetrahydrofuran.

39. *(Withdrawn)* Process as claimed in claim 35, wherein the PLGA concentration in the solution used in stage (a) is comprised between 70 and 300 g/l.

40. *(Withdrawn)* Process as claimed in claim 39, wherein said concentration is comprised between 100 and 200 g/l.

41. *(Withdrawn)* Process as claimed in claim 35, wherein said contact time is 1 second.

42. *(Withdrawn)* Process for preparing the subcutaneous implant according to claim 22 comprising the following stages:

a') mixing the active principle with PLGA,

b') possibly granulating the mixture originating from (a') in the minimum solvent quantity, and drying the granules obtained,

c') co-extruding the mixture originating from (a') or from (b') together with the PLGA used for preparing the coating in film form (ii).